

## Report from the Membership Workgroup

The Membership Workgroup reviewed the request by the Farm Bureau and the Defenders of Wildlife to be included on the Steering Committee. The attached letters formally laid out the interests of each in asking to join.

The Membership Workgroup met and reviewed the letters and the criteria regarding membership. A set of specific questions was developed for each of the applicants based on the criteria. These questions were based on a review of the application letter, their comment letter on the Planning Agreement, and the knowledge of the workgroup members about previous processes or conflicts that the applicants had been involved in.

A one hour interview was scheduled with each of the applicants. They were both given an opportunity to answer the questions as well as provide other information they wanted the workgroup to have. As the questions were asked, workgroup members asked follow-up questions as they felt necessary.

### Both Parties:

- agreed to sign the planning agreement and accept past Steering Committee decisions
- stated that the changes in the PA in response to their concerns were adequate
- pledged to work toward a successful BDCP that accomplishes both planning and conservation goals
- stressed the need for sound science

### The Farm Bureau:

- is committed to a collaborative process and would prefer this to lawsuits
- is prepared to support an HCP/NCCP if it adequately addresses their legitimate concerns
- could support ag land coming out of production if there is a scientific basis for this element of the plan
- is committed to a recovery program based on sound science.

### Defenders of Wildlife:

- is committed to regional conservation planning that crosses jurisdictional lines and believes that the BDCP provides an good example
- is "not locked on any predetermined outcomes" and would support increased water supplies if consistent with achieving the conservation goals of the BDCP
- has considerable experience in collaborative restoration programs and prefers collaborative processes to develop solutions

At the conclusion of the interviews, the workgroup members reviewed the responses and criteria. After discussion, the workgroup reached the recommendation that both applicants should be accepted on the Steering Committee.



February 13, 2007

Karen Scarborough  
Undersecretary for Resources  
Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request to Join Bay-Delta Conservation Plan Steering  
Committee

Dear Undersecretary Scarborough:

On the behalf of Defenders of Wildlife, I am writing to submit my request to join the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan ("BDCP") Steering Committee. Defenders of Wildlife is a national organization dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity. We represent nearly half a million people nationwide, with more than 120,000 members in California.

Defenders is very interested in joining the BDCP Steering Committee for three reasons. First, we strongly support regional and multi-jurisdictional conservation planning. Defenders has spent years working on, evaluating, and promoting long-term, regional habitat conservation plans/natural community conservation plans as one of the best methods for conserving species. For that reason, we strongly support the creation of a regional conservation plan for the Bay Delta. If designed correctly, such a plan should provide for the conservation of numerous imperiled and declining species in the Delta.

Second, we believe regional conservation plans are important tools for conserving wildlife in an aquatic setting. However, rarely do agencies use such plans in the water arena. We have a strong interest in seeing such a plan to fruition in order to use it as an example for other areas of the country.

Finally, we believe that the BDCP presents one of the best opportunities for solving the difficult and complex challenges facing species conservation in the Bay Delta. Regional conservation planning cuts across jurisdictional boundaries and requires a more holistic view of the ecosystem. This approach allows for solutions that may be equally sweeping. Further, the strong monitoring and adaptive management provisions in conservation planning, particularly the Natural Community Conservation Planning ("NCCP") Act, provide the best framework for managing such a complex system.

In addition to Defenders' commitment to achieving the conservation goals of the BDCP, Defenders also brings a wealth of conservation planning experience, which should be of great benefit to this process. Defenders has

California Program Office  
1303 J Street, Suite 270  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Telephone 916-313-5800  
Fax 916-313-5812  
[www.defenders.org/california](http://www.defenders.org/california)

National Headquarters  
1130 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
Telephone 202-682-9400  
Fax 202-682-1331  
[www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)

participated in numerous conservation plans across the country. One of our recent successes was the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan in Arizona. In California, Defenders was deeply involved in the revision of the NCCP Act in 2000 and 2001. Defenders also has been involved in several conservation plans, including the Solano County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Coachella Valley HCP/NCCP, Placer County Conservation Plan, Imperial Irrigation District ("IID") HCP/NCCP, and the West Mojave HCP. Our review and participation in these plans has given us a great deal of experience in the politics, science and art of achieving consensus around a conservation plan.

Not only do we have experience with conservation planning in general, we also have experience in working on complex water planning projects. For many years, as part of our Lower Colorado River program, Defenders worked on the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan. In addition, I have spent the last five years working on the Salton Sea – the water transfer, the restoration planning process, and the IID NCCP.

Due to our experience, I fully understand the commitment we would be taking on as an organization and individually. We are prepared to dedicate the necessary staff time and resources to the BDCP planning effort.

For the above reason, Defenders believes that its addition to the BDCP Steering Committee will provide a benefit to the BDCP planning process by providing the necessary expertise to produce a solid plan supported by the Steering Committee.

As a final matter, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge that Defenders' comment letter on the BDCP draft planning agreement was very critical. We were very disturbed by a number of provisions in the planning agreement, particularly the unresolved issue of whether this plan will be an HCP or NCCP. It is our hope – as it is I am sure the hope of the other conservation organizations participating on the BDCP Steering Committee -- that the result of this effort will be an NCCP.

Defenders would like to thank the Steering Committee members for making a few of the requested changes/clarifications suggested in our comment letter. As for the remaining issues identified in our letter, we understand that the planning agreement is just a framework for the BDCP planning effort. This agreement does not abrogate parties' obligations under state and federal law. Therefore, we do not believe that these issues present a barrier to Defenders' signing the planning agreement.

For all of the reasons outlined above, Defenders hopes that the members of the BDCP Steering Committee will grant our request to join the BDCP planning effort as a member of the Steering Committee. I would be happy to meet with you and the members of the Steering Committee to discuss our application. Thank you for the opportunity to join in this important conservation endeavor.

Sincerely,



Kim Delfino  
California Program Director



# CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

## EXECUTIVE OFFICES

2300 RIVER PLAZA DRIVE, SACRAMENTO, CA 95833-3293 • PHONE (916) 561-5520 • FAX (916) 561-5690

January 26, 2007

Karen Scarborough  
Undersecretary  
Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Bay-Delta Conservation Plan – Request for Steering Committee Membership**

Dear Ms. Scarborough:

The California Farm Bureau Federation ("Farm Bureau") is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership California corporation whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the State of California and to find solutions to the problems of the farm, the farm home and the rural community. Farm Bureau is California's largest farm organization, comprised of 53 county Farm Bureaus currently representing over 91,500 farm families and individual members in 56 counties. Farm Bureau strives to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of California's resources.

The purpose of this letter is to request Farm Bureau membership on the steering committee of the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan ("BDCP"). Farm Bureau members have statewide interests that include water supplies for production agriculture, both north and south of the Delta, as well as within the Delta. The BDCP presents an opportunity for critical resource issues to be resolved in a manner that is faithful to these interests and those of other stakeholders. As currently constituted, however, Farm Bureau believes the steering committee does not directly represent the statewide level interests of production agriculture.

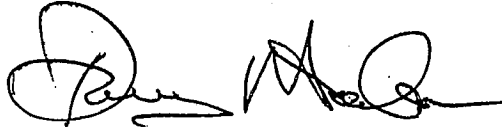
Farm Bureau is committed to working collaboratively within the BDCP process to develop a plan that addresses the interests of all participants, and generally supports the goals of the BDCP. We have previously commented on the planning agreement for the BDCP, and anticipate signing it as adopted by the original members of the steering committee. Farm Bureau is also willing to commit executive-level resources to the BDCP process, as well as appropriate staff support, and believes it can bring to bear considerable management and

Letter to Karen Scarborough  
January 26, 2007  
Page 2

technical expertise to assist the development of the plan. In that regard, at the direction of my board I have appointed Kenny Watkins, Farm Bureau's Second Vice President, to represent Farm Bureau in the BDCP process.

As chairwoman of the steering committee, we hope you will calendar this request as expeditiously as possible for consideration by the steering committee. If you have any questions regarding this request, you may call me or Kenny Watkins at (916) 561-5520.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Mosebar", written over a horizontal line.

DOUG MOSEBAR  
President

DM;pkh

cc: Secretary A.G. Kawamura  
Secretary Michael Chrisman